THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRl T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A report on the Technology Status and Prospects of Bio-degradable plastics in India has been prepared. International protocols like ASTM D 6.400; DIN 54,900 and EN 13,432 are available for testing bio degradability of the plastic. Further, a high level Committee constituted on plastic waste disposal has recommended that support for R&D should be provided for development of degradable/bio-degradable plastics as also non-plastic alternatives.

To prevent the plastic pollution, a set of rules entrtled "Recycled Plastics Manufacture & Usage Rules, 1999" were notified prescribing a minimum thickness of 20 microns for plastic carry bags and prohibiting the use of recycled plastics for packaging and dispensing of food stuff. Currently bio-degradable plastic materials are bring manufactured in the country.

NFAP in Gujarat

1101. SHRl BACHANl LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the composition and objectives of the National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP);

(b) the totai land earmarked for implementation of the programme in Gujarat; and

(c) the details of land earmarked for each main and sub-programme under the main components?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRl T.R. BAALU): (a) The National Forestry Action Plan (NFAP) is a compilation of the State Forestry Action Programmes formulated by the State/Union Territory Governments. NFAP is a comprehensive strategic long term plan for the next twenty years to address the issues underlying major problems of the forestry sector in line with the National Forest Policy, 1988. The objective of the NFAP is to bring one-third area of the country under forest/tree cover to arrest de-forestation for achieving sustainable development of forests.

The National Forestry Action Programme has the following five main components:

1. Protectipn of the existing forest resources.
2. Improvement of forest productivity.

3. Reduction of total demand.
4. Strengthening Policy and Institutional Framework.
5. Expansion of forest area.

(b) The total and earmarked for implementation of the Programme in Gujarat is 2.62 million hectares.

(c) The details of land earmarked for each main and sub-programme under the main components are as given below:

(million hectares)

Programme	Sub-Programme	Physical Target
1. IMPROVE FOREST	a. Restoration of degraded forests	0.20
PRODUCTIVITY	b. Reboisment of denuded forest	0.24
	c. Savannaland development	0.24
	d. Grassland development	0.02
	e. Desert border immobilization	0.02
	f. Mangrove restoration	0.01
	g. Coastal border restoration	0.01
	TOTAL (1)	0.74
2. EXPAND FOREST	a. Strip plantation	0.02
AREA	b. Village woodlots	0.03
	c. Saline land development	0.01
	d. Seeding for distribution	1.82
	TOTAL (2)	1.88
	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	2.62

JFM Scheme in Assam

1102. SHRl URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with a view to protect and preserve the forests and environment, the Central Government are encouraging the Joint Forest Management (JFM) Scheme, emphasizing the need of the local people's involvement with the forest management;

(b) how much money has been given to Assam during the current financial